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Dear friend:

We are facing the biggest step of faith we ever had to take. It has to do with the opportunities we are experiencing and the need to respond to them strategically, but it stretches our faith like never before.

Let us tell you about it. We trust you can back us up with prayers, because we need them!

We've always said "NOPE"

Through the years, many people have suggested that we establish the INSTE office for Latin America in the US. They pointed out, rightfully, that we would be more effective in raising a ministry that encompasses all of Latin America, the Spanish speaking Caribbean, the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal), and perhaps Spanish and Portuguese-speaking Africa, if we worked from the US instead of from Central America. We've always answered with a very clear "nope". There were a hundred reasons for that "no". But the principal one being that the Lord had led us to come to Honduras to set up the INSTE ministry. In 1991, exactly thirty years ago, He showed us that we were to leave Spain to come to Honduras. We were happy as a lark serving the Lord in Spain, and we left with tears as we moved across the Atlantic. Honduras is not a great place to live in (that's an understatement). But He brought us here, and we have seen His hand in amazing and extremely satisfying ways. We were set to stay here till we finished the race.

We believe the Lord is saying "go"

Then the Covid pandemic came. It caught us in the US at our son's wedding. And it meant that the wisest course of action was staying there, as Honduras was under a severe lockdown, the contagions were sky-high, and hospitals were ill-equipped. The remote work turned out to be extremely effective, and we actually saw new opportunities that we never would have seen in Honduras. It was while we were in the US that our boss, Doug Gehman, Globe's director, suggested we set up the INSTE office in Pensacola. My first reaction was to say "no". But the more I prayed about it, the more I felt the Lord saying "go".

Do you believe in confirmations?

Everywhere we turn, we believe the Lord is confirming this move. This story is one of many, but it is rich. I wrote a pastor that I respect highly, John Havener, to ask for his advice for what I described as the most difficult ministerial decision we ever had to make. That's all I said. We met for lunch, and as we sat down, he looked at me with the sweetest, peaceful face you could imagine, and said, "before you say anything, the Lord has spoken to me about your decision." Then he continued, "and I feel that He is saying that you are to come to the US."

It doesn't make sense

That we move after serving the church of Honduras for 30 years, and at a stage where we are reaping rich fruit just doesn't make sense. We are at the apex of our influence in this country. Really, this move is crazy, unless there's richer things ahead. We believe the Lord is telling us to dream big for the next phase. And it's an only-if-Jesus-does-it kind of a thing. That doesn't get any better.

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The new teams are already in place

The amazing part of this was the biggest “but Lord” that I had. It was, “but Lord, we need the right people to turn over the church we pastor and the INSTE ministry in Honduras. At this point we don’t have the right people, but a lot better, we have the I-must-be-dreaming category of people to take over. These are stories for another time, but my assistant director for Latin America, a highly effective pastor and business executive accepted the INSTE Honduran National Director position. And my co-pastor, who is an experienced church leader and is doing a bang-up job as the INSTE promoter for Honduras has accepted the position as pastor of the Logos Church. This is humbling for me. And exciting. They will take these ministries to the next level!

There’s a personal side to this

To tell you the truth, Ivonne and I prefer not to live in the US. I have spent the last 40 years honing in on ministry in Spanish speaking countries. Ministry-wise, I feel like a fish out of water in the US. And I have an accent when I speak in English, I’ve spoken Spanish 99% of the time for the past four decades. This is a step of obedience. It makes us dependent on Him. That’s not a bad place to be. But that coin has another side. We’ll get to see our son, David and his wife, Kaeley more than once a year! And we will be able to enjoy the grandkids when they come! Furthermore, for our son Daniel, who is blind and needs to live with us, Honduras is a worst-case scenario.

What is the plan?

At present, every time I sit down to work (which is most of the time), I have 10 pressing things I need to take care of. This will free me to be focused. I plan to travel a lot. I desire to invest much more time on our National Directors, who are top leaders, many who look at me as their pastor or a spiritual covering. And to be able to supervise and assist our national offices more effectively. There is also the CUMIBIN summit, with amazing new opportunities. But there are a hundred questions we do not have answers to yet.

We covet your prayers

So, at this stage of life, we are setting sail for the US. Tell you the truth, when I left Liberty and went to Spain in 1982, it was by faith, I had nothing set up there, nothing but a word in my heart to go serve the Lord in Madrid. Since then, our lives are all about jumping by faith into the deep. Please do pray for us. This will be the hardest thing we’ve ever done in our service for the Lord. But stepping out in faith, following His lead, is always exciting. And we feel that He is instructing us to dream big for the next stage.

